The Fellowship Has Left the Building

*affirmation by Margaret Weis*

The Fellowship is not a place; it is a people.
The Fellowship is not only a steeple above the treeline, streets, and cars.
Rather, it is a people proclaiming to the world that we are here for the work of healing and of justice.
The Fellowship is not walls built stone upon stone, held together by mortar
but rather person, linked with person, linked with person: all ages and genders and abilities—
a community built on the foundation of reason, faith, and love.
The Fellowship is not just a set of doors open on Sunday morning,
but the commitment day after day, and moment after moment,
of our hearts creaking open the doors of welcome to the possibility of new experience and radical welcome.
The Fellowship is not simply a building, a steeple, a pew.
The Fellowship is the gathering together of all the people, and experiences,
and fear, and love, and hope in our resilient hearts;
gathering, however we can, to say to the world:
welcome, come in, lay down your heartache, and pick up hope and love.
For the Fellowship is us—each and every one of us—
Together, a beacon of hope to this world that so sorely needs it.
**Our Mission:**
Guided by the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, our Door County Fellowship:
- Celebrates diverse beliefs
- Inspires spiritual growth, intellectual inquiry, and creative expression
- Cares actively for the wellbeing of its Fellowship family and the larger community
- Practices conscientious stewardship of the earth upon which all life depends
- Pursues equality and justice for all people

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**An Open Door to Understanding, Compassion, and Justice**

President’s Column:
*by Tom Toerpe, President*

**COVID-19 Response**
*Eblast sent to the Fellowship on 3/20/20*

- **Sunday Services Suspended Until Further Notice**
- **Fellowship Building Closed to Everyone Except Necessary Staff and Authorized Personnel**
- **All Face-to-Face Group Meetings and Activities Suspended**

Dear UUFDC Members & Friends,
In order to protect our Fellowship and our community from the growing risk of Coronavirus transmission, the Governing Board has taken the steps outlined above effective immediately.

Even as we suspend all our face-to-face group activities, I want to assure you that we are actively maintaining the critical work of our Fellowship.

**Care for Members & Friends:** Our Caring Committee continues to help Members in need, and is actively reaching out to those who may be especially vulnerable at this time. If you need help or can offer it, please contact committee chair Trish Black at: trish.black55@gmail.com OR (920) 421-9845. The Caring Committee will also be our liaison to the Interfaith group that is helping Door County’s fire departments coordinate non-emergency care throughout the county. The county fire departments have created a county-wide task force and have established an on-line portal for those who need help and those who can offer help. Here are the links:

To request help:  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Z6A4Wy24wk-Eg47yereHlw2n9HAVBhx FuB8N26CuCeXxuUQlG WkNDrzVEU0915jMwU0k1OVFjOEZCVC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Z6A4Wy24wk-Eg47yereHlw2n9HAVBhx FuB8N26CuCeXxuUQlG WkNDrzVEU0915jMwU0k1OVFjOEZCVC4u)

To volunteer to help:  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Z6A4Wy24wk-Eg47yereHlw2n9HAVBhx FuB8N26CuCeXxuUMFMyMdCc2U0JWWFNORzJaTzc1VDY1TEVVUS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Z6A4Wy24wk-Eg47yereHlw2n9HAVBhx FuB8N26CuCeXxuUMFMyMdCc2U0JWWFNORzJaTzc1VDY1TEVVUS4u)

**“Sunday Services”**: Our Sunday Services have always been a core element of our community, providing a space for us to grow together spiritually, intellectually and morally. While we can’t meet as a group, we will continue offering a virtual forum to connect with each other. Each week, we will share a combination of short videos, readings and music via e-mail, organized around our UU principles of compassion, understanding and justice. We will also give Members and Friends the opportunity to share joys and concerns, keeping us connected in spirit if not in body. At a time like this, it’s more important than ever to maintain ourselves as a loving, caring community.

**Financial Management:** We are also a practical community. As we look to make a difference with our actions, we know we need to be financially sound to meet the challenges ahead. The Finance Committee is beginning to evaluate potential impacts, and will report back to the Board and the Fellowship in the weeks to come.

**Board Meetings:** The Governing Board has begun holding weekly Zoom meetings on Wednesday evenings to stay on top of this quickly evolving situation. If you have an issue that requires our attention, reach out to me, to our Administrator Sara McKillop, or to any Board member with your ideas and concerns.

**Staying Connected:** During this period of isolation, we have to use all of the tools at our disposal to stay engaged with one another. Most of our Members are comfortable with e-mail, so that will be our primary form of communication. However, we’ll also make regular use of our Facebook page and website, we just created a UUFDC YouTube channel to share videos and music, our Board and committees are holding virtual “face-to-face” meetings via Zoom, and of course we can always pick up the phone to talk. Let’s use these tools not only to exchange practical information, but to check up on each other, enjoy a laugh or a song, talk about art and poetry, and share our joys and concerns.

**Thank you** for all the ways you support our Fellowship. It’s good to know we are navigating these challenging days together.
Our Community

Pandemic
by Lynn Ungar
submitted by Shirley Williams

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath - the most sacred of times.

Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now, on trying to make the world different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life.
Center down.
And when your body has become still reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. (You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands. (Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands. Reach out your heart. Reach out your words. Reach out your tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love - for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live.

DISTANCE WILL NOT DEMINISH OUR UU DEDICATION & CONNECTION TO ONE ANOTHER

Watch/listen to Gerri Friedberg play piano on our new Youtube page! A great selection of UUFD achievements & UU inspiration have already been uploaded.
Remembering Cynthia Oliver
May 28, 1938-March 6, 2020
by Nancy Rafal

Always a ray of sunshine
Her smile commanded you
to be of good cheer
And that laugh—she got the joke
whatever it was
Her library spanned many topics
Her interests ranged far and wide
For several years she portrayed
the son of a lighthouse keeper with a troupe
of storytellers
One young visitor called her out
but she never broke character
She held a fiftieth anniversary party for her
women friends—the marriage long ended
Her hands always active, massage therapy her trade,
solo camping and house sitting her pleasure
A time as scullery help in Ellison Bay
A painter, a poet, a volunteer with Loaves and Fishes,
a bargain hunter, a knitter
She gifted us with her polymer clay pens and
her fused glass candle holders and
those knitted dishcloths
So many interests to explore
No time for cooking or house chores
Always a word to strangers, compliments most of the
time,
and always that smile and that laugh
Always garbed in colorful clothing, always ready
for adventure
She mourned giving up her twenty year old van but
knew it was time

Cynthia lives on in the hearts of her many friends and all
she touched deeply or just for a moment.

Dear, dear friend.

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Record 2019 Third Sunday Collections!
by Lynn Mercurio, Social Justice Committee

I want to thank all of you for your extremely generous contributions
for our 2019 Third Sunday non-profit organizations. The
total for the twelve organizations was $11,848.00! This is the
largest annual amount ever collected by this fellowship. We con-
tributed to six local, three regional, two international and one
national organization. Four were recommended by the Racial
Justice Action Team (Conversation Partners/Stella Marris, Pueblo
a Pueblo, UU Church Columbia, MO/Asylum Seekers, JUST Door
County), two by the Economic Justice Action Team (United Way
of Door County, UU Justice Action Team), two by the Environ-
mental Justice Action Team (CCCDC-Climate Change Coalition of
Door County, coalition to Save the Menomonee River), and four
by the Social Justice Committee (Door County Legal Aid, UUFDC
scholarship, Alzheimer’s Association, UUSC Guest at Your Table).

There are many worthwhile organizations that have been chosen,
and will be chosen, for our 2020 Third Sunday Collections. And
while things are on relative “hold” in our lives right now, I know
that when we can once again gather together, we will continue
our tradition of support those organizations that do the work of
social justice.

If you want to recommend a not-for-profit organization to be a
recipient of one of our Third Sunday contributions, you can find
criteria, an application, and suggestions on how to promote your
organization once it is scheduled on the UUFDC website.

Again, thank you for your amazing support to help those in need.

Social Justice Committee Update
by Paula Christensen, Chair

As UU Rev. Lynn Unger says in her poem included here entitled
“Pandemic,” “we cannot reach out with our hands right now … but
we can reach out with our words, our hearts, and our compassion.
Our connections are not physical, yet they are still felt. Our usual
events like Movies That Matter and Third Sunday Collections
cannot take place, yet we still care about those issues and organiza-
tions. Now is the time to send a different kind of support and en-
ergy to others. Keep individuals and groups in your hearts, send
them love and care, make a phone call, give a donation. All of
this makes a difference.

For those who have the means, we ask that you support local
businesses and nonprofits as best as you can. We will be keeping
tabs on our beloved UUFDC community’s needs through the Car-
ing Committee, as well as the needs of the larger Door County
community through collaborative efforts. We’ll keep you in-
fomed via Eblasts regarding special needs we discover in real
time.

The SJC and Action Teams will continue to meet electronically as
needed to organize for when we are out of this crisis. We will
work on ideas, goals, and plans to be ready to move forward in
the future. Stay safe, be well, reach out, and take good care.
Environmental Justice Action Team Update
by Meg Ziegelmann, Team Leader
Our Team has completed a modified workshop process for selecting our 2020 Actions. We chose to become more focused on what would lead to policy changes as opposed to service, which historically has been what churches have tended to do. Our top picks are: 1) Join UU the Vote. 2) Educate & distribute to voters the Vote Smart brochure. 3) Support the effort to expand the Green Tier Legacy to villages in northern Door. We hope to engage the Fellowship in these efforts and partner with community organizations and businesses to accomplish these actions.

Challenge of the Month: Reduce food waste. At the grocery store, buy produce that is on the edge to prevent it from being tossed out. At home, freeze food that is marginal. This can include sour milk used in baking goods and pancakes. Lettuce and all vegs can be used in soups and stews. Why: Food waste produces more methane than CO$_2$ and is more damaging to the atmosphere. (Though is dissipates quicker than CO$_2$.) Reducing food waste is #3 on the list of 100 Most Effective Steps We Can Take to Reverse Climate Change, stated in the acclaimed “Drawdown” book.

UU Book Club
by Lynn Mercurio, Club Coordinator
Our April UU Book Club discussion will be held on Wednesday, April 1 at 1 pm via Zoom. Sara has graciously offered to set this up for those who are interested, and I would be willing to facilitate the discussion of My Abandonment by Peter Rock. I found it to be a stunning book; I finished it in two days! Whether you plan to attend via Zoom on April 1 or not, I urge you to read this book that is based on a true story. “This beautiful, strange novel takes us into the foreign country where those called homeless are at home, the city is wilderness, and the greater wilderness lies beyond. Fascinating and moving, it tells with great tenderness how human love goes wrong.” Ursula K. LeGuin

If you are interested in meeting via Zoom, please email, my email is in the UU directory, so we can send you the Zoom invitation/link.

Looking forward to May, our selection is Born on Third Base, by Chuck Collins. Chuck was the recipient of a family inheritance and gave it away. His work is dedicated to income equality...an interesting vocation for someone who grew up a “1%er”. Some of you may have had the opportunity to hear him speak here a year or so ago, and it is of some interest that his family has a compound in northern Door County. We will (fingers crossed) meet at my home on Wednesday, May 6, from 1-3 to discuss this book and this person.

I also want to correct the July book club date; we will meet on Wednesday, July 8, not July 1. Our host, Karon Winzenz, has asked that I encourage us to begin reading the book selection, Last Report on the Miracle at Little No Horse, by Louise Edrich, due to its length.

We obviously have time to read now, so this is a good way to entertain and enrich ourselves....with books. Stay safe and healthy.

Things You Can Do During the Coronavirus Outbreak
Submitted by Trish Black, Caring Committee Chair
In times like these it is difficult to know how best to help. I doubt that any of us has experienced anything like this. The UUA recently posted an article on how to be supportive in light of the dictates of this health crisis. Here are some suggestions:

1. Stay apprised of current status of health guidelines coming form the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and the Wisconsin Department of Public Health.

2. Stay calm—keep your anxiety under control and practice deep presence to each moment and what we KNOW to be true.

3. Be present to one another—not in person but via phone, email, etc.

4. Practice deep listening.

5. Find ways to make community.

6. Keep the big picture in mind—we will get through this. The world may look different after this but for the most part we will get through this.

7. Be particularly attentive to those in isolating situations, e.g., as those residing in long-term care facilities who can no longer receive visitors from the outside including family. Perhaps send a card, email, or other note.

8. Offer support and gratitude to those on the front lines especially medical personnel, first responders and their families.

Mostly, just remember to stay calm, carry on, stay inside, AND wash your hands!!!
UU Update
Mailed Subscription: $15 per year
Emailed Subscription: No charge

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Email: contact@uufdc.org
Web page: www.uufdc.org
Sunday Services: 10:00 am
Submit information to:
Sara McKillop contact@uufdc.org

April Calendar: https://uufdc.org/events-calendar/
You will notice our calendar is sparse as Sunday Services and all face-to-face meetings/gatherings are suspended. As more remote meetings are identified with the office, our website calendar linked above, will be updated. We are working on getting our staff and Fellowship Members and Friends connected and comfortable with the social technology of Zoom. If you manage a UUFDC club or committee and would like to hold a meeting via Zoom, contact Sara (contact info above) and she can set up a meeting link for you. The office has access to a paid version that allows longer meetings and provides more features. Your computer will need a camera, microphone, and speakers; most laptops and smart phones have this equipment built in.

A good first step is to test if you can log in to Zoom, visit http://zoom.us/test
Click the blue Join button to launch Zoom. When prompted by your browser, click Open Zoom Meetings. If you don't have Zoom installed on your computer, follow the prompts to download and install Zoom.
Visit www.tinyurl.com/zoomUU for a tutorial video about how to use Zoom. Here’s another resource that the Foothills UU made for their members: https://foothillsuu.org/resource/zoom-resources/ If you need a phone call tutorial to help get Zoom set up on your computer contact Sara and she can set a tutorial up for you.

Staying Connected while Staying Apart
Not only do we find ourselves afloat in uncharted waters but given the need to social distance in order to stop this pandemic we are navigating these waters alone which can heighten our feelings of uncertainty and anxiety. This is a time we need to “reach out and touch” but only figuratively. Pick up the phone and call a friend, family member or neighbor. Send a card or email. There are many platforms for connecting “face-to-face” via social media, e.g., Google Hangouts, Duo, FaceTime, Zoom, etc. Or create a retro “party line” on your phone. If you need help figuring out how to use remote social technology, contact the office and we can set up an phone call to help get you connected.

Happy Birthday: (apologies to anyone I missed; I had to rely on last April’s birthday report)
4 Karin Kopischke; 5 Carolyn Zahn-Waxler; 6 Gail Jacobs; 7 Dale Goodner; 9 Peter Conroy; 11 Joan Mead;
12 Mary Mitchell; 13 Jack Travis; 15 Bruce Nelson; 23 Lois Mackinney; 26 Carol DeGutis, Pat Mead;
27 Cynthia DeLaMer; 30 Ellie Kaage